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UPN "VETERAN" JATIM MENJADI PERGURUAN TINGGI NEGERI

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ZIARAH DI TAMAN MAKAM PAHLAWAN**

**MEMBUMIKAN HASIL RISET UNTUK
KESEJAHTERAAN MASYARAKAT**

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WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

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In Indonesia today, English language is taught and learnt from Elementary schools up to University. This means that the learners (students) have studied it for more than 10 (ten) years, but in fact most of them are not capable of producing the two language skills (speaking and writing) very well

This might happen to the two other skills, listening and reading. Based on the writer's experience during his teaching, especially to non-English department students, he found that more than 90% of them, their English competence was very poor. This might be caused by some aspects, such as the inconsistency between the spelling and its pronunciation, vocabulary and many other patterns of grammatical structures that were much different from those of Indonesian language and even more complex and sophisticated as well and some others. Here are some aspect that the writer thinks becoming the problems to the Indonesian learners:

1. The Two Words, phrases, or Statements which are often Pronounced Similarly

- 'Walk for work'; This means that the learners tend to pronounce [wɔk] instead of [wɛk] for the word 'work';
- 'Sick for six'; This means that the learners tend to pronounce [slk] instead of [slks] for the word 'six'.
- 'back' for 'bag'; 'impotent' for 'important'; 'brick' for 'break'; 'sing for sink'; 'thing for think'; 'I scream' and 'ice cream'; 'she sells' and 'sea shells'; etc. Those two pairs of different words are often pronounced similarly although they have different meanings.

2. The Two Different Words Pronounced Exactly the Same

- Cell and sell; flower and flour; sea and see;
- red and read (past form / V2); Celery and salary;
- Here and hear; there and their; Whole and hole; buy and by
- Sun and son; Meat and meet; Send and sand; And many others.

Those pair of words have the same pronunciation, although their meanings are totally different. However, the learners tend to pronounce them differently because they think that different words with different meaning should have different pronunciation.

3. No Consistency in Pronouncing the Words of the Same Letter

a) The same letter pronounced differently according to its position

(1) Letter [c] in the words 'cook, camera, campus, and cake' is pronounced [k]. But it is pronounced [s] in the words such as 'cell, ceiling, celebration, and ceremony' although the position of [c] is at the beginning of word. Meanwhile the words such as 'economic, academic, logical, and practical, the letter [c] is also pronounced [k] even though its position is in the middle or at the end. But it will become [s] in the words such as 'city, cell, peace, choice, and practice'. Then letter [c] is

pronounced [ky] in the words like: 'curious, security, cute, and cucumber'. Furthermore, in the words such as: 'scenery, scissors, scenario, and scientist', the letter [c] is not pronounced at all. But in the words such as: 'scale, scandal, scarf, and scarcity', the letter [c] is still pronounced [k] clearly like in the words 'cook, academic, and economy' although the position of [c] is after letter [s] like in the words 'scenery, scissors, and scientist'.

(2) Letter [ch] in the words like 'choose, chicken, beach, coach, and merchandise', is pronounced [tʃ]. But in the words such as 'chef, cheroot, chiffon, and machine', it is pronounced into [sy]. Meanwhile, it will be pronounced [kh] in the words such as 'mechanics, chemistry, and character'.

(3) Letter [r] in the words: 'road, rings, bright, breakfast, creation, and character' is pronounced very clearly. But it will be pronounced differently from that of in the words such as in: 'very, carry, marry, and sorry'. In these words, letter [r] is pronounced indistinctly. Meanwhile, the words such as: 'door, clear, color, and floor', letter [r] is almost unvoiced at all.

(4) Letter [t] in the words 'take, try, telephone, tall, and ten' is pronounced [t] clearly, but it will become [tʃ] in the words such as 'picture, natural, culture, capture, and maturity. Then [t] is pronounced [sy] in the words such as 'radiation, patient, national, potential, and solution'. Meanwhile, the words like 'catalogue, material, captain, wanted, and continue', the sound [t] is still in existence although the position of letter [t] is in the middle of word like 'potential and radiation'.

(5) The same word is pronounced differently. For example, the 'read' in the first verb (present) is pronounced [rid], but in the second verb (past form) and third one (past participle) it is pronounced [red].

(6) And many others.

b) The same letter with the same position but pronounced differently

(1) Letter [h] in the words 'house, help, holiday, and hotel' is pronounced [h] clearly; In the words 'hour, honest, and honor' it will be pronounced [a]; While in the words 'humidity, human being, humiliate, and humorous', it will change [hy].

(2) Letter [u] in the words 'ugly, unknown, ultimate, utterance, and umbrella', is pronounced [ʌ]; But in the words such as 'university, utility, uniform, UK, and useful', it is pronounced [y]; While in the words 'upon, and urgent', it is pronounced [ə];

(3) And many others.

c) Different Grammatical Rules

(1) Tense with Different Forms of Verb

As we know that as a basic of grammatical structure, in English there are 16 (sixteen) tenses must be mastered by the learners. This grammatical structure is distinguished by the different use or forms of verbs which are much influenced by the time the doer does the activity. Therefore, different tense requires the different pattern with different grammatical structure. These differences of tenses can frequently make the learners (especially beginners) difficult to distinguish which is the most appropriate tense to use. Here are the examples of those sixteen tenses ... (BERSAMBUNG EDISI DEPAN)